

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Best Endeavor (preferred)
other names/site number Buena Vista Farm HA-1056

2. Location

street & number 1612 Calvary Road N/A ☐ not for publication
city, town Churchville ☒ vicinity
state Maryland code MD county Harford code 025 zip code 21028

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>4</u>	<u>4</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> structures
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> objects
<u>5</u>	<u>5</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/ANumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Michael STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERDate 11/24/90

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

- ☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

- ☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

HA-1056

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)DOMESTIC/single dwellingDOMESTIC/secondary structuresAGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agriculturaloutbuildings**Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)**DOMESTIC/single dwellingDOMESTIC/secondary structuresAGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agriculturaloutbuildings**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(enter categories from instructions)

FederalGreek Revival**Materials (enter categories from instructions)**foundation STONEwalls STONEroof SLATEother WOOD**Describe present and historic physical appearance.****DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:**

Best Endeavor is a large, multi-sectioned, mid to late 18th century, partially stuccoed stone telescope house located on the west side of Calvary Road (State Route 136) near Churchville in south-central Harford County, Maryland. The principal facade faces south. The building comprises two primary sections: the western unit, constructed ca. 1740, is four bays wide. Probably around 1785, the eastern half of this section was raised to two stories, and a 2½-story, three bay, side passage/double parlor block was added against the east gable. At about the same time, an unusual wellhouse was attached at the west gable end. The house is characterized by interior decorative detailing reflecting these two periods, and a partial remodeling which took place c.1841. The resource retains several outbuildings dating from the mid-nineteenth century or earlier, including a stone smokehouse, a timber framed barn with board and batten siding, a timber framed shed, and the ruin of a large stone and frame bank barn. A late 19th/early 20th century frame tenant house and four mid-20th century outbuildings do not contribute to the significance of the resource.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Best Endeavor is a large, multi-sectioned stone telescope house located on the west side of Calvary Road (State Route 136) near the village of Churchville in south-central Harford County, Maryland. The property is located approximately six miles east of the county seat, the town of Bel Air. The landscape is generally characterized by gently rolling fields; although land use in the area remains generally agricultural, suburban development has begun to occur.

The building comprises several gable-roofed sections of varying heights, and achieved its present configuration in the late eighteenth century. The earliest section, probably built around 1740, is four bays wide, constructed of random rubble masonry. Examination of the stonework of the south facade of this section suggests that it was originally $1\frac{1}{2}$ stories in height; it appears that the eastern half was subsequently raised to two stories, probably coincident with the construction of the large, $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story wing at that end in the late eighteenth century. As a result, the two western bays of the south elevation are $1\frac{1}{2}$ stories high, while the two eastern bays rise to two stories. A one-story wellhouse projects from the west gable.

On the south facade, the $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story block and the raised two-story section of the early wing are united by a boxed cornice with complex bed and crown moldings. The south slope of the gable roof is covered with slate, and interior chimneys mark the gable ends. Two pedimented dormers are located on the south slope of the roof in the $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story block. The two first-floor windows in this section were increased in height in a mid-nineteenth century remodeling, and have mitred frames. The other windows in both sections have 6/6 sash in original pegged frames enriched with ovolo/fillet backband molding. Exterior sills have been replaced with concrete. The entrance is located in the westernmost bay of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story block, reflecting a side-passage plan; the door is framed with wide plain boards and surmounted by a four-light transom. A modern, one-story porch marks the entrance.

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The western half of the early wing is $1\frac{1}{2}$ stories high and two bays wide. An entrance is located in the eastern bay, with an early frame of wide boards with a bead at the inner edge. The other bay holds a 6/6 window in an early beaded frame. There is a simple boxed cornice; a large reworked gable dormer is centered on the slate-clad south slope of the roof.

The east gable end, facing Calvary Road, is unfenestrated except for two small four-light windows at the attic level.

The north elevation of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ story block is similar to the south facade, except that the bay adjacent to the door is blank. The north slope of the roof is covered in asphalt; there are no dormers on this side.

The north wall of the early section steps back from the plane of the main block, forming a wing. A two-tier gallery was created across this section, probably in the mid-nineteenth century; the lower level of this gallery was enclosed to form a garage, which was later remodeled to accommodate a modern kitchen. The kitchen extends across the $1\frac{1}{2}$ story section.

The west gable of the main block is exposed above the shed roof of the gallery, and is lighted by a four-pane window. This area, and the exposed area of the west gable of the two-story section, have been stuccoed. A small 6/6 window is centered in the peak of the gable of the $1\frac{1}{2}$ story section, and a 6/6 window has been cut into the west wall of the wellhouse.

When the present owners acquired the property, the building was covered with stucco, which was failing in several areas and most of which was therefore removed. The character of the masonry suggests that the building had received this treatment at an early date, probably upon completion of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story section; this would have integrated the several sections in a unified whole, consistent with the aesthetic ideals of the period.

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On the interior, the western section consists of two approximately equal-sized rooms on the ground floor, each measuring roughly 15' by 15', with fireplaces located back-to-back on the partition wall. The western room was the original kitchen; its large cooking fireplace retains an iron crane. The fireplace was recently treated with a projecting stone facing to improve the draft; the opening is topped with a simple board shelf. There are exterior doorways in the center of the north wall and in one bay of the south wall; the opening in the north wall provides access to a modern kitchen. The south wall has a replaced Dutch door in an early beaded frame, and a replaced 6/6 window with an early interior sill. An enclosed winder stair, behind a beaded-batten door, is located in the northwest corner of this room, rising to a chamber in the loft; stair treads are secured with T-head nails. Baseboards in this room are topped with a Greek ogee. A door in the southwest corner of this room provides access to a 12' by 12' wellhouse adjoining the kitchen. There is no exterior access to the wellhouse; such direct interior communication with a well is an unusual plan feature in the vernacular architecture of Piedmont Maryland, where it is more customary to find the water source located in a separate building at some distance from the dwelling house. Even where an early building may incorporate a spring room in its cellar, this area is usually accessible from the exterior. The well room has been remodeled to provide modern bath and laundry facilities.

The other ground floor room is reached through an opening in the partition wall south of the fireplace. Its floor level is two steps higher than the west room. This room also has more formal woodwork than the west room, including fielded panel doors and a Greek Revival mantel. A former window opening in the north wall has been converted to a cupboard and blocked with decorative paneled shutters; a doorway in this wall, framed with Greek Revival stepped molding with a beaded inner edge, provides access to the modern kitchen. The windows in the south wall also are framed with stepped molding, with molded sills and beaded subsills. The mantel framing the fireplace on the west partition wall features tapered pilasters supporting a recessed-panel frieze and Greek ovolo molded shelf; this mantel, as well as the stepped window and door trim, appears to have been installed in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, probably coincident with a remodeling of the

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two parlors in the late 18th century block. An enclosed winder stair is located in the northwest corner of this room, leading to a chamber above. The door enclosing this stair is treated with four raised fielded panels. A built-in cupboard with a paneled door is located next to the stair. Both openings have beaded architrave trim. This room also retains a brick hearth, early pine flooring and beaded baseboards.

The present main section of the house is a large 2½-story stone wing, constructed about 1785 against the east end of the earlier section. This section originally had a side-passage, double-parlor plan, comprising two approximately equal-sized rooms opening off an unusually spacious, 8'-10" wide entrance/stair hall. All of the trim in the hall appears to be original to the ca. 1785 period. In the hall, a dogleg stair rises against the west wall; the stair has a turned newel, slender turned balusters (three per tread), a molded handrail and shadow rail, and scrolled step ends. The area below the stair carriage is framed with beaded architrave molding and ovolo/fillet backband; this area is enriched with raised fielded paneling with complex panel molds. Similar details are found on the door below the stair, leading to the cellar. All the openings off the stair hall are framed with beaded architrave molding with ovolo/fillet backband. The chair rail has a half-round shelf above a coved bed molding and a beaded lower edge; these profiles are mirrored in the baseboard. The partition between the hall and parlors is unusually thin, measuring only 4" thick, indicating that lath and plaster were applied to vertical boards rather than conventional frame construction.

The partition which separated the two parlors was removed in the 1950s; its former location is revealed by patches in the flooring and plasterwork. Narrow hardwood floorboards were installed over early flooring in this area. The door architraves, baseboards, complex molded window sills and beaded subsills in the parlors remain from the ca. 1785 period. Other decorative detailing dates from the second quarter of the nineteenth century; it is probable that this remodeling took place in 1841, when Noah Webster purchased the property from his father. At that time, two elaborate Greek Revival mantels were installed against the east gable wall, featuring freestanding columns supporting a frieze comprising a fielded panel with Greek ogee panel molds below a

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complex bed molding employing Greek ovolo, step, fillet, and bead motifs, and a Greek ovolo molded shelf. Windows were treated with symmetrically-molded surrounds with corner blocks.

On the second story of the main block are two chambers above the parlors, and a third smaller room at the south end of the hall. These areas retain late eighteenth century woodwork which is consistent in character with that of the first floor stair hall. The doors opening off the hall have six raised fielded panels with complex panel molds, and are hung in openings framed with beaded surrounds with ovolo/fillet backbands.

The northeast chamber has a fireplace with a simple architrave surround; an unusual original closet occupies the space to the north of the chimney breast, with a peg rail running around three sides. Another closet, probably of nineteenth-century date, has been created in the corresponding space on the other side of the fireplace. This room retains early window and door surrounds, chair rail, and baseboard trim.

The layout of the southeast chamber is similar; the fireplace has been blocked, and both flanking closets appear to date from the nineteenth century. The door frame is beaded, with an ovolo/fillet backband; window surrounds reflect Greek Revival influence, with stepped architrave molding and symmetrically molded subsills. The baseboard in this room is plain; there is no chair rail.

The room at the end of the hall has been remodeled to accommodate a modern bathroom. It retains an early paneled door in a beaded architrave with ovolo/fillet backband; there is an early keyhole-shaped spring latch on this door. The window trim is Greek, as in the southeast chamber.

At the southwest corner of the hall, a mid-nineteenth century paneled door opens into a bedroom in the upper story of the east half of the earlier section of the house. This room has simple, mid-nineteenth century woodwork featuring stepped window and door surrounds. Closets flank the chimney stack on the west wall; there is no fireplace.

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The attic is reached by a stair rising from the northwest corner of the hall, enclosed with a beaded-batten door with a nineteenth-century spring latch. The attic comprises three rooms; all are fully plastered (where it is evident, lath appears to be riven and secured with double-struck nails). Batten doors are framed with architrave trim which is plain except for a heavy bead at the inner edge. Hanging strips are set into the plaster at several locations. The east room runs the full depth of the building; a fireplace is centered against this wall, with an elaborate Federal period mantel which probably was relocated to the attic from an original location in one of the parlors when the parlors were remodeled in the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

The house retains a good level of integrity. Its accretive growth and series of remodelings into the nineteenth century reflect the increasing prosperity of its builders and occupants. It retains an especially noteworthy collection of late 18th and early 19th century interior decorative detailing. The most significant alteration to the historic interior spaces was the removal of the partition which separated the two parlors in the main block; despite this change, the original configuration remains clearly expressed in patches in the floorboards and ceiling plaster. Otherwise, interior alterations have been limited to replastering, installation of hardwood flooring in certain areas, and refacing the fireplaces in the older section to improve their draft. On the exterior, deterioration of the stucco prompted its removal, and rotted wooden window sills were replaced with concrete.

Also on the property are several secondary buildings and a site which date from the period of significance of the main house and contribute to its historic setting. These include a stone smokehouse, a timber frame barn with board and batten siding which rests on a rubble stone foundation, and a timber frame shed. The stone foundation of a large bank barn, destroyed in a recent storm, also remains on the property. These probably date from the period between the circa 1785 additions and the circa 1841 renovations. Non-contributing buildings and structures include a late 19th/early 20th century tenant house, and several outbuildings dating to the mid-20th century: a small barn, a workshop, and a garage, all

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constructed of cinderblock, and a frame corncrib.

The house and outbuildings are situated within an informally landscaped domestic yard, which is surrounded by agricultural fields. There is no evidence of historic landscape features.

See Continuation Sheet 7.8

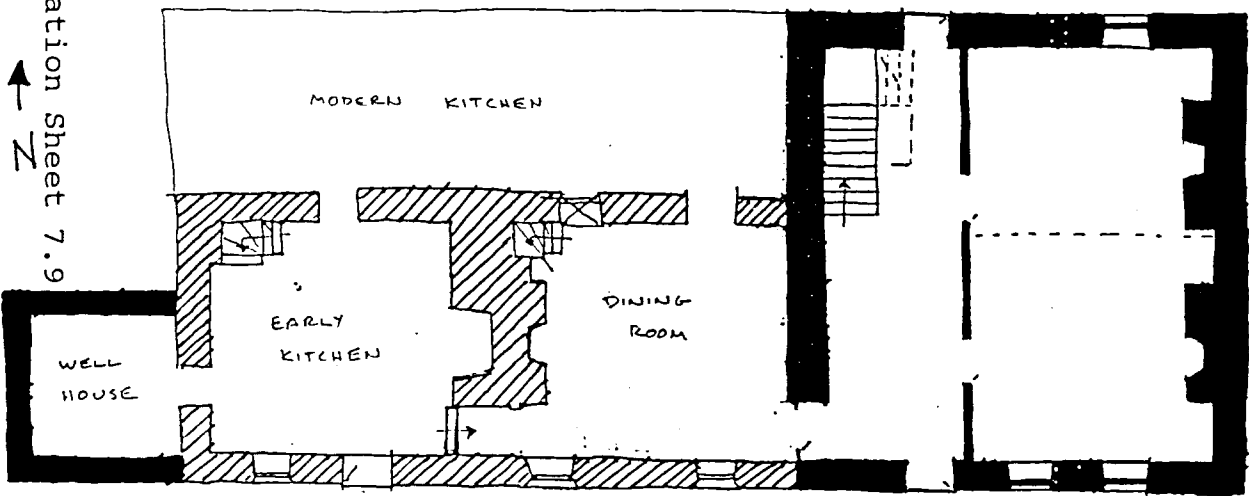
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BEST ENDEAVOR

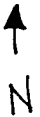
SKETCH FLOOR PLAN - NOT TO SCALE

■ PERIOD 1, MID-18TH CENTURY

■ PERIOD 2, LATE 18TH CENTURY

PEK 9/90

See Continuation Sheet 7.9



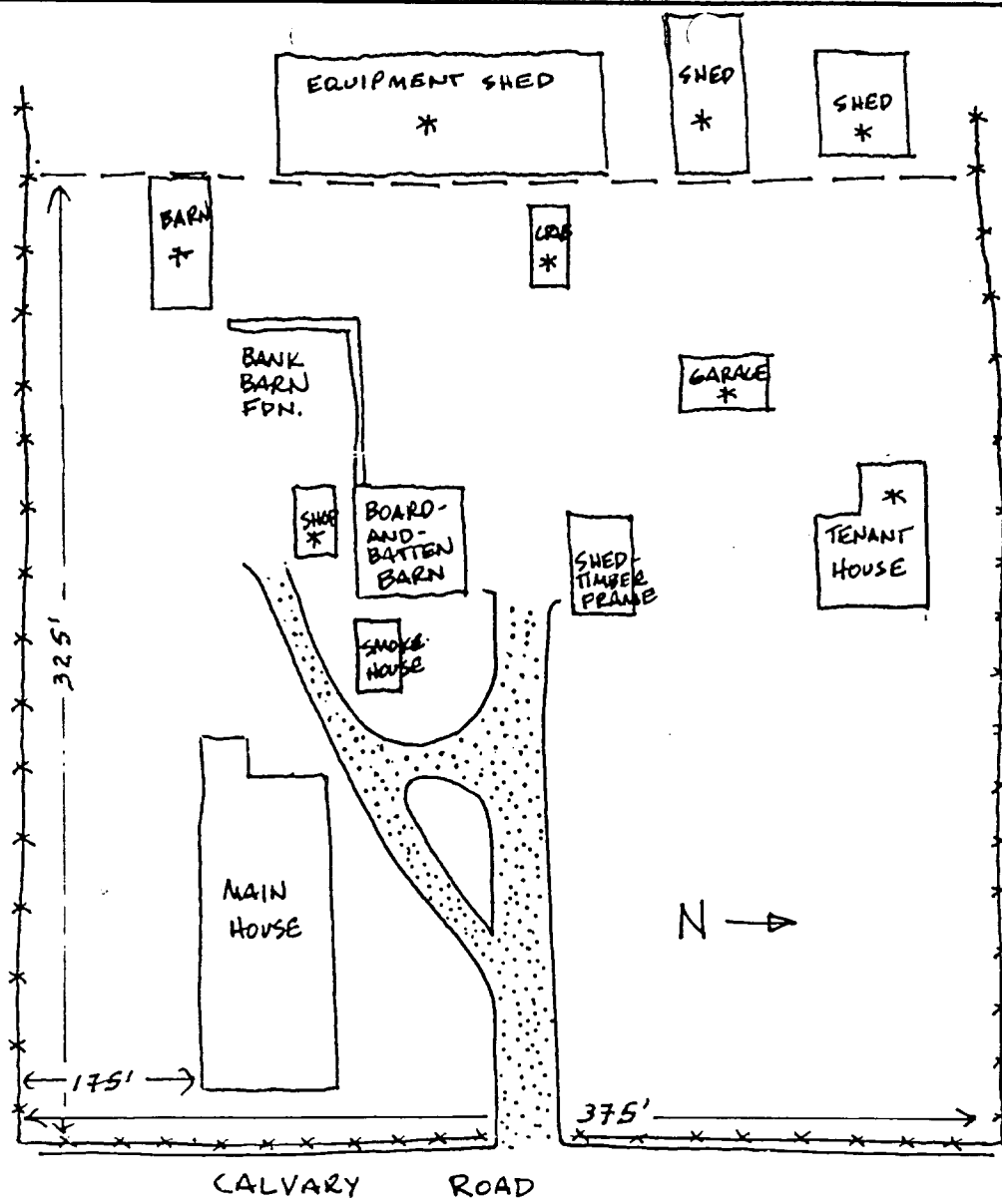
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BEST ENDEAVOR

SKETCH SITE PLAN - NOT TO SCALE

* = NON-CONTRIBUTING

PEK 9/90

8. Statement of Significance

HA-1056

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

c.1740-c.1841

c.1740

c.1785

c.1841

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Best Endeavor is significant for its architecture. The house presents a significant example of the domestic vernacular architecture of rural Harford County, reflecting accretive growth and remodeling over time from about 1740 through the mid-nineteenth century. The building comprises a ca. 1740 hall/parlor section, to which a large side passage, double parlor block was added late in the eighteenth century; around 1841, a partial interior remodeling was carried out. It retains an exceptional collection of historic decorative detailing, reflecting two periods of craftsmanship: the stair hall and second story retain a full complement of quality Federal period woodwork, and the trim in the parlors and dining room reflects Greek Revival influence. An elaborate Federal mantel was apparently relocated in the attic when the parlors were remodeled in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, reflecting changing tastes and uses of space. An early wellhouse adjoins the original kitchen and communicates with it; this is an unusual feature in the vernacular architecture of Piedmont Maryland. Other notable plan features include an unusually spacious stair hall separated from the parlors by a board partition, and several built-in closets. The property also retains several domestic and agricultural outbuildings contemporaneous with the house, including a stone smokehouse, a frame barn and shed, and the ruins of a large bank barn. The period of significance extends to the mid-19th century, when the house achieved its present character.

☒ See continuation sheet 8.1

For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Rural Agrarian Intensification - A.D. 1680-1815
Agricultural-Industrial Transition - A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
Agriculture

Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structures
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuildings

Known Design Source: None

See Continuation Sheet 8.2

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Section number 8 Page 2HISTORIC CONTEXT:

The resource is situated on part of the tract called Best Endeavor, which was patented to Thomas Lytfoot in 1686. This tract became part of the extensive land holdings of the Webster family by the early eighteenth century. The construction of the 1½-story, hall/parlor section of the house is attributed to Samuel Webster, a tobacco farmer who served as inspector of tobacco at Joppa, one of the principal early ports on the Chesapeake. Despite this important position, Samuel Webster's means appear to have been relatively modest. Upon his death in 1785, his estate inventory revealed a net worth of only £100; the total list of his chattels reads: "wearing apparel, 1 bed and frame, 1 old bed, 2 books, 1 pewter dish, 1 silver watch."

The large, formal side passage/double parlor section of the house was added after Samuel Webster's death by his grandson, Richard Webster II (1765-1855). Richard Webster II had abandoned tobacco production in favor of grain; he also ran Webster's Mill, which he had inherited from his father along with the house and land.

In 1841, Richard Webster II sold the property to his son, Noah; the Greek Revival woodwork in the house seems to coincide with Noah Webster's acquisition of the property. When Noah Webster died in 1874, he left Best Endeavor to his son, Richard E. Webster (1833-1908), who capitalized on Harford County's important 19th century canning industry by raising fruit, as well as grain and cattle. The property passed out of the Webster family in 1908.

In its accretive growth and remodeling, the property reflects changes in the agrarian economic base which affected residents throughout Harford County during the period. The 1½-story, hall/parlor wing was constructed about 1740 by a moderately successful tobacco planter. By the post-Revolutionary period, the economic base of the county had shifted from tobacco to a more stable and lucrative production of grain; the large 2½-story side-passage, double parlor east wing reflects the prosperity of its builder, a grain farmer and miller. A remodeling of the parlors in the second quarter of the nineteenth century speaks of the continuing success of the grain-based economy, and the beginnings

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of agricultural diversification and scientific farming.

A review of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties for Harford County indicates that Best Endeavor is probably the best-preserved eighteenth-century house in the Churchville area. Two other properties in the area represent this period: Webster's Forest, a 1½-story gambrel-roofed stone house with a side-passage plan, and Broom's Bloom, a frame building. Both these properties suffered fires at some time in their history, and their interiors are not as fully intact as that of Best Endeavor.

The property is threatened by increasing development and transportation improvements in the immediate area. The location of the house, within a few feet of the right-of-way of Calvary Road (State Route 136), makes it especially vulnerable to road widening.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

☒ See continuation sheet 9.1

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

10. Geographical Data

creage of property Approximately 2.8 acresUSGS Quad: Bel Air, Maryland

UTM References

A

1	8	3	9	1	2	2	0	4	3	7	3	1	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

☐ See continuation sheetVerbal Boundary Description

_____☒ See continuation sheet 10.1Boundary Justification

_____☒ See continuation sheet 10.1

1. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter E. Kurtze, Architectural Historian

organization N/A date August 31, 1990

street & number 109 Brandon Road telephone (301)828-1644

city or town Baltimore state Maryland zip code 21212

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Land and Probate Records of Harford County

Preston, Walter Wilkes. History of Harford County, Maryland.
orig. pub. Baltimore, 1901; rpt. Baltimore: Regional
Publishing Co., 1972.

Tax Records: Maryland 1783, 1814; Federal 1798

Wright, C. Milton. Our Harford Heritage. Bel Air, Maryland:
privately printed, 1967.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties: Harford County.
Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland. (Susan Deeney
and Christopher Weeks manuscripts, in particular.)

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Boundaries form a rectangle measuring 375' north-south along Calvary Road by 325' east-west. The south boundary is 175' from and parallel to the south side of the house. These boundaries correspond roughly to the area of the domestic yard which provides the immediate setting for the historically-significant buildings and structures. These boundaries are generally defined on the east by the existing right-of-way of Calvary Road (State Route 136), and on the north, south, and southwest by fence lines; the western boundary follows a projection of this line from the southwest to northeast corners of the defined area, completing the rectangle.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property comprises approximately 2.8 acres, including the significant buildings and structures within their immediate environment and excluding modern outbuildings and surrounding property which do not contribute to the significance of the resource.

Title Search
HA-1056

Buena Vista
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lomax
1612 Calvary Road
Churchville, Maryland 21028

892	386	3/1/1972	Grantor: Frank R. and Marguerite B. Hoffercker Grantee: Donald Logan and Margaret Fraser Lomax Acreage: 81.64	
GCB	288	289	4/27/45	Grantor: Edwin M. and Erma S. Caudill Grantee: Frank R. and Marguerite B. Hoffercker Acreage: 150 acres
GCB	299	412	10/8/46	Grantor: Marguerite B. Hoffercker Grantee: Elizabeth Esley Acreage: 150 acres
GCB	299	413	9/12/46	Grantor: Elizabeth Esley Grantee: Marguerite B. Hoffercker Acreage: 150 acres
GCB	282	51	1/29/44	Grantor: Edwin M. Caudill Grantee: Emily and Mary Stroterhoff Acreage: 15.8 acres
GCB	280	420	12/7/43	Grantor: Edwin M. Caudill Grantee: Charles C. Freeland and Son, Inc. Acreage: 33 58/100 acres
Deed of Release		7/31/43	Grantor: Francis W. Little Grantee: Edwin M. Caudill	
MEWR	253	135	9/6/38	Grantor: Phillip H. Close, att; Francis W. and Virginia K. Little Grantee: Edwin M. Caudill
JAR	167	207	1/2/20	Grantor: William C. Keithley, Adam J. Keithley Grantee: Francis W. Little Acreage: 200 acres
JAR	166	294	1/2/20	Grantor: Francis W. Little Grantee: William C. and Adam J. Keithley Acreage: 200 acres
WSF	125	109	1/10/1908	Grantor: William H. Harlan, et al Trustees for Richard E. Webster Grantee: Francis W. and Miriam F. Little
WSR	9	25	5/16/1870	Grantor: Noah Webster Last Will and Testament Grantee: Richard E. Webster Acreage: "The farm on which I reside, including the House and lot which I bought of Catherine Clark and Henry M. Cole."

1.

HA-1056

ALJ	2	370	4/11/1853	Grantor: Catherine Clark and Henry M. Cole Grantee: Noah Webster Acreage: 1¼ acres of "Best Endeavour"
HDG	36	294	4/27/1850	Grantor: Henry M. Cole and Charlotte Cole Grantee: Catherine Clark Acreage: "All that part of . . . Best Endeavor, the same described property being a House and Lot of land situated on the East side of the road leading from Lower Cross Roads to Harford or Bush Towne."
HDG	34	188	7/3/1848	Grantor: Luther M. Hitchcock and Ann, his wife Grantee: Henry M. Cole
HD	17	285	6/14/1834	Grantor: John Forwood of John and Hannah, his wife Grantee: Luther M. Hitchcock
HD	10	46	9/15/1826	Grantor: Sarah Webster of Chester Co, PA. Grantee: John Forwood Acreage: "1¼ acres of land with the houses, out houses, orchards, waters, water courses and rights. . ."
HD	X	99	9/4/1812	Grantor: George Smith Grantee: Sarah Webster of Harford County Acreage: "Houses, outhouses. . ."
HD	R	668	3/23/1805	Grantor: James Trapnell Grantee: George Smith Acreage: "Lot together with houses, outhouses. . ."
HD	Q	359	9/6/1802	Grantor: William Wilson, Silversmith Grantee: James Trapnell Acreage: "Lot or parcel of land . . . with the houses, outhouses. . ."

2.

File	#2810		10/4/1855	Grantor: Estate of Richard Webster, deceased Grantee: Noah Webster, \$1482.52 of real or personal property.
HD	25	189	9/11/1841	Grantor: Richard and Rachel Webster Grantee: Noah Webster, son Acreage: "Best Endeavour where Noah Webster now lives", "On the west side of the road opposite the Calvary mtg. house", 200 acres together with house, buildings. . .
SR	1	309	2/13/1823	Grantor: Richard Webster, Last Will and Testament Grantee: Richard Webster, Jr. Acreage: ½ of a tract where a Grist Mill stands which was purchased by me + John Mitchell late of Harford County in partnership. Also 30 acres purchased from Wm. Luckey. "To Harry Webster-the lands and mansion house where I now live. . ."

HD	X	41	4/11/1812	<p>Grantor: Elijah, Frederick, John, Evan Mitchell, John Webster + wife Elizabeth, John Fulton + Lydia his wife, John Vandergrift + wife Mary, heirs at Law to John Mitchell dec'd.</p> <p>Grantee: Richard Webster, Jr.</p> <p>Acreage: 50 acres more or less of Best Endeavour</p>
HD	5	176	12/4/1808	<p>Grantor: Thomas Downing</p> <p>Grantee: Richard, Thomas, Samuel, James, John, Isaac and Joseph Webster heirs at law of their father, Samuel Downing rec'd deed for "Best Endeavour" from Samuel Webster on 12/4/1806 in trust for the children</p> <p>Acreage: 398 acres</p>
HD	5	496	12/4/1806	<p>Grantor: Samuel Webster</p> <p>Grantee: Thomas Downing</p>
JLG	N	3	1/2/1796	<p>Grantor: Isaac Webster</p> <p>Grantee: Samuel Webster of Richard</p> <p>Acreage: James Webster's Debts-see below 398 acres</p>
JLG	N	384	2/4/1797	<p>Grantor: Isaac Webster</p> <p>Grantee: Richard Webster and John Mitchell</p> <p>Acreage: 50 acres of "Best Endeavour" by virtue of a deed from James Webster of Isaac as a deed of trust for paying James' debts.</p>
CWB	7	30	6/17/1847	<p>Grantor: John Webster, Last Will and Testament</p> <p>Grantee: 3 daughters-Mary, Elizabeth, and Sarah House and 10 acres of land where I now live. After their death it goes to grandson John W. Kamby</p>
AJ	R	229	3/4/1795	<p>Grantor: John Lee Webster, Last Will and Testament</p> <p>Grantee: He divided his lands among sons: John Skinner Webster + (Spesutia Lands) Isaac Lee Webster (Forrest Lands)</p> <p>Acreage: "All my lands at my Forrest Plantation called "Best Endeavour"</p>
AJ	R	197	11/26/1785	<p>Grantor: Samuel Webster, Last Will and Testament</p> <p>Grantee: He divided it equally among his 6 children, Samuel, Richard, Michael are three of the sons, Howard's Forest, Webster's Forest, Christopher's Lamp are mentioned. Other acreage is not named.</p>

INVENTORY NO. 1056

ELECTION DISTRICT _____

DATE: 1056

TAX MAP NO. _____

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

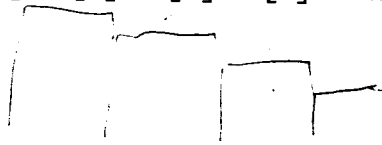
PARCEL NO. _____

NAME OF PROPERTY: Buena VistaBest Indian

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: _____

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: ~~North~~ SouthNAME OF OWNER: Mr & Mrs Donald LomaxADDRESS: 1612 Calvary RoadSTORIES: 1[☒] 2[☒] 3[] 4[] 5[] 6[] BAYS:

WINGS, ADDITIONS:

4 sections

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- ☐ FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten(type?)
☐ BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
☒ STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
☐ LOG

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTERS, OTHERS _____

FOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONE

WATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICK

 WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1[] 2/2[] 6/6[☒] 9/6[] 9/9[] other[]
 pegged[] nailed[] wide[] narrow[]
 original[] replaced[]

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: _____

HARDWARE: original[] replaced[]FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES:

original[] replaced[]

ROOF: GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLANK, HIP, MANSARD, FLAT, DORMERSMATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original[] replaced[]

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed[] hip[] gable[]

CHIMNEYS: NUMBER 2 BRICK[☒] STONE[] CORBELED[☒] original[] replaced[☒]
 LOCATION: inside gable ends

ARCHES:

COMMENTS:

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

1310564135
HA-1056

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Best Endeavour

AND/OR COMMON

Buena Vista

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1612 Calvary Road

CITY, TOWN

Churchville

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

first

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
___ STRUCTURE
___ SITE
___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
___ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
___ IN PROCESS
___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
___ UNOCCUPIED
___ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
___ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE
___ COMMERCIAL
___ EDUCATIONAL
___ ENTERTAINMENT
___ GOVERNMENT
___ INDUSTRIAL
___ MILITARY
___ MUSEUM
___ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___ RELIGIOUS
___ SCIENTIFIC
___ TRANSPORTATION
___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lomax

Telephone #: 734-7618

STREET & NUMBER

1612 Calvary Road

CITY, TOWN

Churchville

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
MD 21028

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 892

Folio #: 386

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

MD

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This partially stuccoed, rubble stone dwelling is located on the west side of Calvary Road just south of the Calvary Methodist Church. The house faces south and consists of four main sections.

Section one is 2 stories high and three bays long. It has a side through hall. The principle entrance is located on the south facade. This door has a four light transom overhead. The door itself has two moulded panels and nine lights in the upper part of the door. A three bay porch is present at the south facade it is not the original porch. A one bay, 1 tier, gable front porch is present over the door on the north facade.

Windows are six lights over six with replaced, nonserviceable shutters. The gable flank roof is covered with slate. The roof has a box cornice. A corbeled brick chimney is at the inside east gable end. Two attic windows flank this chimney. These are four lights each. All outer walls of this section are covered with white stucco. A cellar is located under this section. A large, fireplace support is present on the east wall.

Inside, section one is two rooms deep with a side through hall. The stairway is located in the north west corner of the hall. Chair rails are present through out this section. The wall separating the two rooms of this section has been removed. Twin fireplaces are present on the east wall.

Section 2, located at the west wall of Section 1, is two stories high and two bays long. As in all of the sections, this has a gableflank, slate covered roof and windows six lights over six. This section has one room on each floor. Chair rails are present in the interior of the first floor. A large brick fireplace is present on the west wall. It has been refurbished with many of the original bricks replaced. A "back" stairway is located on the west wall. This enclosed stairway winds around and the chimney flue and has narrow passageway and steep steps. A two tier porch on the north facade has been enclosed at ground level for use as a garage. Ceilings in this section are slightly lower than that of the first section.

Section 3 is one story high and two bays long. The ground level is lower than that of the first two sections. Two steps lead from section two into section three. A large field stone on the east wall was uncovered by the owners. The entire face of the fireplace has been restored with field stone while the rectangular stone lined has been left as was found save for the removal of paint. An iron cooking hinge is present in this fireplace. An enclosed stairway on the west wall leads to the attic of this section. A door in the south west corner of the south side leads to the small pump room attached to this section.

Section 4 is the almost square rubble stone pump room. Entrance is gained from the interior of the house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This small farm is situated on part of the tract, Best Endeavour, patented by Thomas Lytfoot in 1686. It was part of the huge Webster family land holdings dating prior to 1785. The stone house with its additions is thought to be very old and James Wollon, AIA, has stated that many details may indicate a date for at least part of the house to be the first half of the eighteenth century.

A rubblestone pump house is an interesting and unusual detail of this house. The building measure 12'4" by 12'3" and is attached to the west end of the house and provides shelter for a well supplying water to the house.

It is difficult to ascertain which section of this house is the oldest but many details seem to indicate the center section. This section has lower ceilings, an enclosed winding stairway, and a cooking fireplace. It is devoid of the frills which are present in the first section which is somewhat of a Early Georgian or Federal style.

The house and farm form with other dwellings in the neighborhood, the Calvary/Creswell Farming Community and should be proposed as an historic district. This house is included within the Rte. 23 Extension Study area and would be endangered by some of the proposed Route alternates.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1783 Maryland Tax List
1798 Federal Tax List
1814 Maryland Tax List

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 81.64 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This land is bordered by the lands of Frank Hoffecker on the west, Calvary Road on the east end and the lands of Marcelene Adams on the north.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Susan M. Deeney, Field Historian	January 31, 1977
ORGANIZATION	Historic District Commission	DATE
STREET & NUMBER	45 South Main Street	838-6000 ext. 207
CITY OR TOWN	Bel Air	TELEPHONE
		STATE
		Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

A smoke house is located north west of the pump room. The small, almost square rubble stone structure has a slate roof with open eaves. Two plant doors are on the east side, one on a higher elevation than the other. A window and a door are also present on the south facade.

Directly behind the smoke house frame barn with rubble stone foundations.

Beyond that is a large barn, two of its walls being rubble stone and two, frame. This has a slate roof.

Two frame sheds are also present, each with rubble stone foundations.

The tenant house is north of the main house and is also close to the road. Of frame construction, it is two stories high and has a slate roof. The house faces east.

North



POND

Barn

Shed

Barn

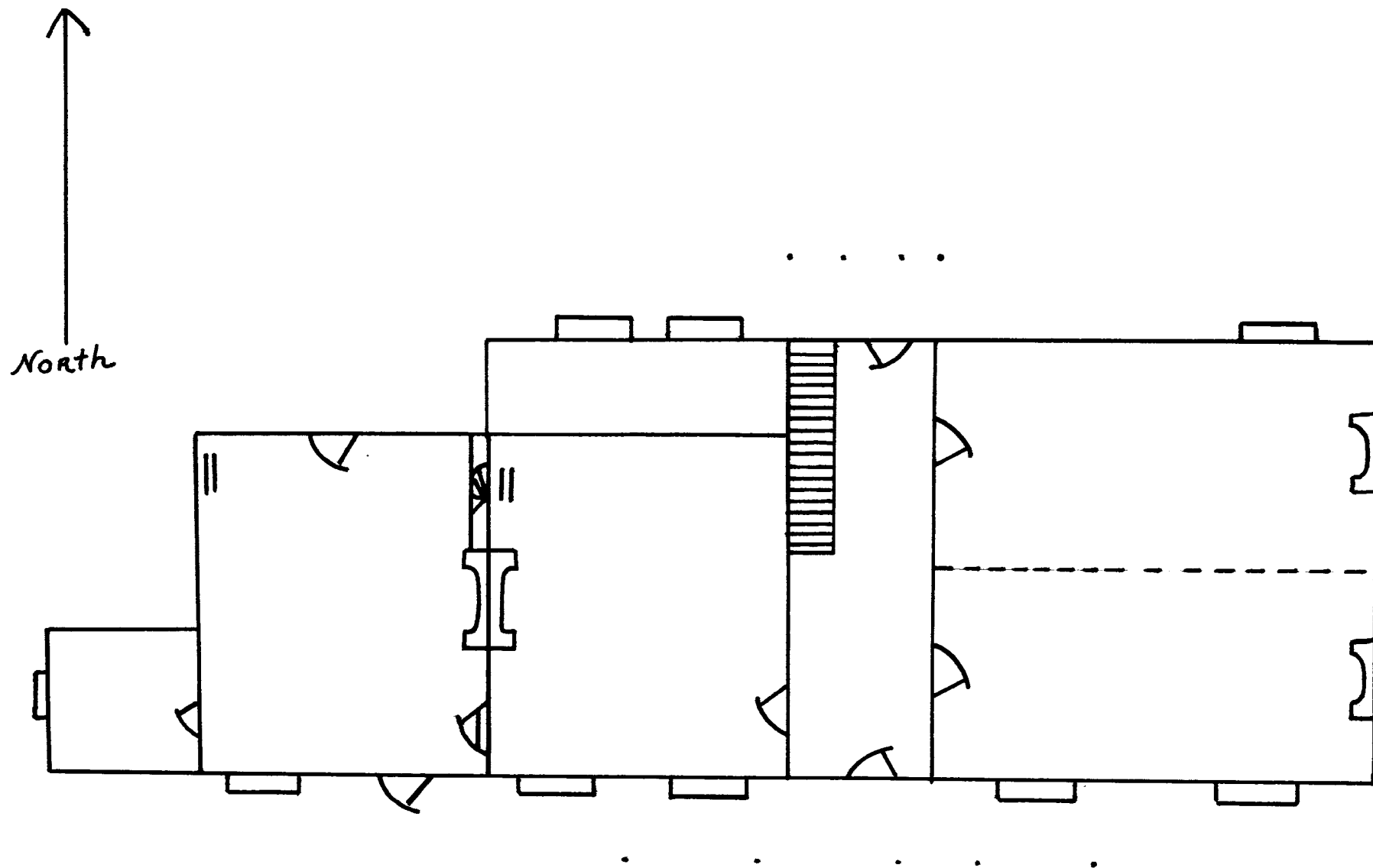
Smoke
House

Shed

House

Tenant
House

Calvary Road (MD 136)







BEST ENDAVOR WA. 1956
CHURCHVILLE VIC., HARTFORD CO., MD
PETER E. KURTZ, 8/31/90
NEG AT MD SHPO
SOUTH ELEVATION
H 1/12

12



BEST ENDEAVOR, 4A-10SG
CHURCHVILLE V.C., HARTFORD CO., MD
PETER E. KURTZE, 8/21/90
NEG AT MD SHPO
VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST
#2/12



BEST ENDEAVOR, HA-1056
CHURCHVILLE VIC., HARFORD CO., MD.

PETER E. KURTZE, 8/21/70

NEG AT MD 5410

VIEW FROM NORTHWEST

8/2/74



BEST ENDEAVOR, HP 1056
CHURCHVILLE VIC, WARFORD CO, MD

PETER E KUNTZE, 8/21/94

NEG AT 1% SLPO

NORTH- ELEVATION

B 4/04

12.1





EST ENDEAVOUR - 20

1400 - 1405 14, 24K 1405 14, 14

14 14 14 14 14 14

14 14 14 14 14 14

14 14 14 14 14 14

14 14 14 14 14 14





BEST ENDEAVOR, - F - 1056

S-24. 11-25 12 - 1257B 10, 11D

PETER E. KURTZ 8/2/20

- 7A 2 10: 2 5 40 24 SEAT - 11

#8/14

12/2



BEST ENDEAVOR, 4A-1056

CHURCHVILLE VIC, - ARFORD CO, MD.

PETTEL E. KURTZE, 8/21/70

NEG AT MD S-40

DETAIL: NEWELS AND SUPPLORRA - AT TURNING

#9/14



BEST ENDEAVOR, HA-1056

CHURCHVILLE VIC, HALFORD CO., MD

PETER E KURTZE, 8/21/70

NEG. AT MD SHIP

TYPICAL DOOR AND SURROUND 2ND FLOOR HALL

#10/14

10/14



BEST ENDEAVOR, LA 1076

2nd Ave. SE, V.C., HARFORD CO., MD

PETER E. KURTZE, 8/21/90

NEG AT MD SUPD

NORTHEAST JEWELL

11/1

121



BEST ENDEAVOR, WA-1056

CHURCH VUE VIC., HANFORD CO., MD

PETER F. JOHNSON, 8/21/90

NE 2 AT MD 212

SMOKEHOUSE, VIEW FROM NORTHEAST

8/21/90





BEST ENDEAVOR, HA - 1056

CHURCHVILLE VIC., HARFORD CO., MD

PETER E. KURTZE, 2/2/90

NEG AT MD S&D

FRAME S&D, 1/13 FROM MD - 1056

± 1/4

1056



Buena Vista Smoke House HA-1056
Churchville, MD
Susan M. Deeney
November, 1976
Southeast



Buena Vista
Churchville, MD
Susan M. Deeney
November, 1976
North

HA-1056



Buena Vista Tenant House

HA-1056

Churchville, MD

Susan M. Deeney

November, 1976

Southeast